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# Centennial Spurs Annual Giving



*Donors enjoy Dean's Club Dinner.*

**T**he University of Buffalo Law School is celebrating its centennial in a rich variety of ways, from elegant dinners to stimulating symposia. But one of the most significant aspects of the Law School's 100th birthday has been a reinvigorated and broadened commitment to private financial support of the school, through membership in the Dean's Club, Carlos Alden Club, and through participation in the phonathon.

"At the moment, we're in the middle of our campaign. Since our giving year runs from July 1st to June 30th, it's impossible to report what will happen this year," says Associate Dean Alan S. Carrel, who is in charge of the Law School's annual campaign.

"Based on the strong beginning we've had so far, however, I would be very surprised if we didn't raise substantially more than we raised last year."

This year's phonathon, held in the offices of Saperston & Day during eight evenings in November, turned in a performance worth celebrating. Eighty-seven volunteers secured \$67,345 in pledges from 933 alumni, an increase of \$15,000 over 1986-87.

Last year, the Law School's annual giving reached record heights, raising a total of \$161,975. The Dean's Club (\$500 or more) attracted 100 members. And the Carlos Alden Club (\$250-\$499) drew 87 donors,

according to Carrel. To help achieve that, three gourmet Centennial Dean's Dinners were held during October and November in the Rue Franklin restaurant in Buffalo.

While gifts of \$1,000 "are no longer a rarity" the average gift last year was \$115, said Carrel.

The Dean's dinners provided an appropriate occasion for Dean Wade J. Newhouse to inform alumni of the Law School's needs:

"Whatever we do to improve, to reinforce the quality of the present educational program, will take resources. The university is being responsive to those needs in the form of additional assistance from state funds. But I must be candid with you. We now depend upon alumni support to be in business. That alumni support is necessary for basics, not just for frills," Newhouse said.

"I cannot overemphasize the fact that the more than \$160,000 which you gave us last year was essential to our maintaining a quality law school. We have relied upon your contributions in just about everything we do.

"Moreover, even with your generosity, we still face many serious financial problems. For example, last year I mentioned how our law library was once again canceling subscriptions to important periodicals because of a lack of funds, and how technological advances, such as Lexis and Westlaw, are having a substantial impact on the cost

of operating a library. There has been some small improvement, but our law library situation remains about where it was last year. The funding crisis will not fade away.

"As another example, we continue to be sorely lacking in student scholarship and loan funds. Even with the lower state tuition, our students are faced with a mounting financial burden in order to complete their education.

"As a further example, even with your past support, we are short of the necessary funds to provide support services for faculty teaching and research.

"I do not exaggerate when I say it will become increasingly difficult for us to compete with other good law schools in attracting the interest of the best legal employers if the gap between the resources available to us and the resources available to those good law schools continues to widen.

"In this respect, I should remind you that I am referring to other state supported law schools. It is fact that the best of the state supported law schools, like Michigan and Berkeley, depend on significant amounts of alumni aid.

"I am sure you will not be surprised that I express a fond hope that you can increase last year's gift by as much as possible. In this way, you can help us maintain and improve the outstanding educational program at your law school."